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COUNTRY Lebanon/Syria

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. 25X1X6

1. On 23 December 1948 the leaders of the Syrian and Lebanese Communist Parties held a meeting in the Ashrafiyyah quarter of Beirut. The meeting was presided over by Khalid Baghdash and attended by Farajallah Hilu, Fu'ad Qazan, Wasfi Banna, Hashim Amin, Mayer Mas'ad, Murshid Saliba, Tannus Diyab and Artin Madoyan.
2. Baghdash opened the meeting with a statement enumerating all the political and economic ills from which the Arab nations are now suffering and which he stated were a result of the Anglo-American imperialist policy in the Middle East. Baghdash also spoke of the shortcomings of the Arab governments in dealing with the various phases of the lives of their peoples. Baghdash claimed that, in complying with the desire of the imperialists who wished to maintain their own positions, the Arab governments had lost the independence of their countries and impoverished their peoples.
3. Following the speeches of Baghdash, Hilu, and Banna, the conferees reached the following decisions:
 - a. To take a decisive attitude against the Hashimite expansion in Palestine and against the Greater Syria project, because leniency in these matters would only serve British imperialism.
 - b. To help Syria with all possible means to prevent her absorption by Transjordan, and to support the execution of the decisions previously reached in this respect by the General Congress of the Communist Parties.
 - c. To agitate against the Lebanese Government with all possible means and to instruct the members of the Communist Party and its supporters, as well as the Lebanese people, to support the opposition, in spite of conflicting ideologies, in order to bring about the downfall of President Khuri and to derive as much benefit as possible from the result.

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- d. To ask the Department of Press and Propaganda in the district branches of the Communist Party to prepare reports on those people in each district who show enmity to the Party and its members, so that the Communist Party can take revenge on its enemies.
 - e. To support the decisions of the Party's district committee meetings which were held in Antilias, Lebanon, and which were attended by representatives from Syria, Palestine, and Transjordan. ~~Comment.~~ The same source reported that, on 24 November the Central Committee of the Communist Party held a meeting in Antilias, at which it was decided that all Communists should be prepared to start a revolution to liberate Lebanon from its present rulers, whose actions were scored as being inspired by the Anglo-Americans. There was no mention, however, of any representatives from Palestine, Syria, or Transjordan having attended this meeting.)
 - f. To make all possible efforts to raise the morale of the workers and to unify their ranks,
3. Each of the members present at the meeting was instructed to effect these decisions within his area of responsibility.

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